

## HOUSE RESOLUTION No.

Introduced by: Harris

A RESOLUTION in support of the Gary/Chicago Airport and the inclusion of Indiana in the discussions with the Federal Aviation Administration.

Whereas, The Gary/Chicago Airport, with its available facilities, provides the most prudent and economical approach for the development of additional regional airport capacity during this period of limited federal financial assistance for the national air transportation system;

Whereas, Traffic arriving at and departing from the Gary/Chicago Airport is increasing, with nearly 50,000 passengers using the facilities in 2000, almost ten times as many as in 1999;

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Whereas, The Gary/Chicago Airport Authority has created an infrastructure that can accommodate this increased traffic, with two runways, one of which is 7,000 feet and is 400 feet longer than Midway's longest runway; three gates whose terminal is being expanded and renovated with completion scheduled for this summer; approximately 700 acres in area, which makes it larger than LaGuardia, Midway, and Reagan National Airport in D.C.; and room for expansion without any residential relocation;

Whereas, The Gary/Chicago Airport is readily accessible to passengers since it is bounded on both sides by expressways, each with an interchange having access to the airport. There is also direct access to Interstates 80 - 94 and the Chicago Skyway, with the driving time to downtown Chicago being only 35 minutes;

Whereas, The Gary/Chicago Airport has the South Shore Commuter Rail Station 700 feet from the airport's property, and the distance from the train station to the airport terminal is less than the distance from O'Hare's remote parking to its Terminal One:

Whereas, The problem of aircraft noise is lessened by the adjacent steel mills, refineries, highways, sewage plant, and Lake Michigan;

Whereas, Because of its nearness to a major refinery and fuel pipeline, the Gary/Chicago Airport does not require major fuel line facilities as do newer airports;

Whereas, The Gary/Chicago Airport will recycle brownfield and marginal use property into productive, job supplying airport facilities; this airport is "smart growth" at its best and prevents sprawl;

Whereas, Any meeting scheduled by the Federal Aviation Administration with Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta should include representatives from the Indiana state and congressional delegation and the mayor of the city of Gary;

Whereas, It would also behoove the Federal Aviation

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HR 1607/DI 84+ 2001

Administration to include Indiana in any future studies regarding air traffic congestion in the Chicagoland area; and

Whereas, The Gary/Chicago Airport means economic opportunity not only for northwest Indiana but also for the neighbors in suburban Illinois, Chicago, and southwest Michigan and tax revenues for Indiana: Therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:

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SECTION 1. That the Indiana House of Representatives wishes to express its continued support for the Chicago/Gary Airport and the consequent economic benefits to northwestern Indiana and northeastern Illinois and oppose the continuing efforts of the state of Illinois to construct a supplemental airport for the region without regional consensus among the interested and affected parties.

SECTION 2. That the Principal Clerk of the House of Representatives shall transmit a copy of this resolution to the governor of Illinois, the governor of Indiana, the mayor of Gary, Indiana, the mayor of Chicago, Illinois, the board of directors of the Chicago/Gary Airport Authority, the secretary of the United States Department of Transportation, and the administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration.

